

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: FOURTH INFORMAL MEETING WITH EXPERTS ON NEW MASS

DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), MARCH 17, 1977

1. SUMMARY: AT FOURTH INFORMAL MEETING OF MDW, BULGARIAN AND GDR REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSSED RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. GDR REP DISCUSSED REASONS WHY SOVIET INITIATIVE WAS IMPORTANT. GDR EXPERT CLAIMED THERE WAS CLASS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS WHICH
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SENSITIZED ORGANISMS TO RESPOND ADVERSELY TO PHYSICAL EFFECTS FROM OTHER SOURCES; SUCH AGENTS HE CLAIMED WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY BW OR CW AGREEMENTS. CANADIAN EXPERT SUPPORTED USE OF 1948 UN DEFINITION OF MDW AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH US EXPERT'S VIEWS. ITALIAN EXPERT SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT IS BANNED IN ANY AGREEMENT. US REP AGREED RADIOLOGICAL WEAPON WAS MDW ACCORDING TO 1948 DEFINITION AND SAID PERHAPS CCD COULD

CONSIDER LOOKING INTO PROBLEM AT SOME FUTURE DATE CONSISTENT WITH WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES. SOVIET EXPERT RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS DAY'S STATEMENT OF US EXPERT THAT AREAS OF CONCERN LISTED BY SOVIETS WERE NOT CANDIDATES FOR MDW, AND RESTATED HIS VIEWS. THE NETHERLANDS REP RECALLED THAT THEY HAD INTRODUCED WORKING PAPER IN 1970 WHICH CONCLUDED THAT RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WERE NOT PRACTICAL. THE INDIAN REP GAVE DISCURSIVE STATEMENT ON SOME PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBJECT. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE GAVE BRIEF CONCLUDING STATEMENT FOR THIS SESSION OF INFORMAL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOURTH AND FINAL INFORMAL MEETING OF THIS CCD SESSION ON MDW WAS HELD ON MARCH 17 WITH SWEDISH REP (HAMILTON) IN CHAIR. BULGARIAN EXPERT (KOLAROV) ADDRESSED RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. HE SAID THAT BURGEONING GROWTH OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL LEAD TO HUGE STOCK OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, CONTAINING LONG-LIVED FISSION PRODUCTS HARMFUL TO MAN, AS WELL AS PLUTONIUM, WHICH IS TOXIC. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY TO DEVELOP NEW MDW BASED ON USE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES. ONLY SMALL AMOUNTS WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND COULD BE INCORPORATED IN NUMBERS OF DIFFERENT CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS DEPENDING UPON EFFECTS DESIRED. HE NOTED THAT NATURAL PROCESSES COULD LEAD TO ENHANCEMENT OF LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, CITING SELECTIVE CONCENTRATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF CESIUM. SUCH WEAPONS COULD BE TRANSPORTED OVER LONG DISTANCES, AND THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SPREAD OVER WIDE AREAS. HE SAID THAT THE INCREASED USE OF PLUTONIUM-239 IN MDW MAY INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF WEAPON BECAUSE OF LETHAL NATURE OF PLUTONIUM. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING, THAT BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL DIVERSITY OF FORMS OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WHICH COULD BE USED IN ARMED CONFLICT OR HOSTILE ACTION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH WEAPONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN SCOPE OF NEW MDW.

3. GDR REP (HERDER) SAID IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE HIS COUNTRY SUPPORTED SOVIET INITIATIVE. THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS COULD BE TURNED TO MILITARY PURPOSES. EFFECTIVE MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO HALT ARMS RACE ALONG NEW LINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE TWO BASIC APPROACHES IN CCD TO SOVIET INITIATIVE: A) SUPPORTIVE, WHILE RECOGNIZING GENUINE PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED, AND B) UNDERLINING DIFFICULTIES AND ARGUING THERE IS NO NEED NOW FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HE IMPLIED US RESPONSE OF YESTERDAY AS IN LATTER CLASS, AS ALSO STATEMENT MADE BY UK AND CANADA THAT THERE WAS GENERAL TENDENCY FOR MODERN WEAPONS TO BE LESS DESTRUCTIVE THROUGH PRECISION. HE QUOTED GOETHE: "I GET THE MESSAGE BUT CAN'T BELIEVE IT." HE SAID THAT THERE ARE ONE-HALF MILLION SCIENTISTS ENGAGED IN MILITARY RESEARCH AND THERE IS TOTAL WORLD MILITARY BUDGET OF 300 BILLION DOLLARS AND THIS INDICATED POTENTIAL FOR IMMINENT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MDW. HE TURNED TO QUESTION OF WHETHER BAN ON NEW MDW WOULD HINDER PEACEFUL RESEARCH. HERE HE CITED BW

TREATY AND CW PROPOSALS WHICH BAN ONLY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION.
BW TREATY HE SAID, HAS NOT INDHIBITED RESEARCH ON BIOLOGY FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES. ADDITIONALLY SUCH TREATIES CAN RELEASE
SCIENTISTS FROM MILITARY RESEARCH, AND ACCORDINGLY COULD
ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL RESEARCH.

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4. GDR EXPERT (JUNG) SAID THAT HISTORICAL RECORD
AND THE RAPID PROGRESS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JUSTIFIED SOVIET
INITIATIVE TO PREVENT FUTURE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. HE THEN
STATED VIEW THAT EXISTING AND FUTURE CONVENTIONS WILL
SUFFICIENTLY COVER THE PROHIBITION OF BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL
WEAPONS. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COVER BY
CONVENTION ON PROHIBITION OF SINGLE TYPES OF WEAPONS, WEAPONS
WHICH ARE BASED ON THE CO-ACTION OF VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC
PHENOMENA. HE GAVE AS EXAMPLES CERTAIN SUBSTANCES WHICH DO

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NOT CAUSE IMMEDIATE DAMAGING EFFECTS, BUT SENSITIZE THE ORGANISM TO RESPOND HARMFULLY TO OTHER ACTIONS: LIGHT FLASHES, LOUD NOISES, ETC. HE ALSO CITED THE POSSIBILITY OF GENETIC MODIFICATIONS TO PRODUCE SIMILAR EFFECTS THUS COMBINATIONS OF CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL OR GENETIC AND PHYSICAL ACTIONS CAN HAVE A LETHAL EFFECT. HE THEN ADDRESSED USE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE FOR USE AS WEAPONS AND CITED SEVERAL APPROACHES: USE IN AEROSOLS, INCLUSION IN CERTAIN CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS SELECTED FOR DESIRED EFFECT ON TARGET. HE SAID THAT THE MULTIPLICITY OF POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY TRANSURANIC ELEMENTS IS NOT YET FORESEEABLE. THE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE EFFECTS OF THE EXAMPLES WERE THAT THE EFFECT DOES NOT OCCUR IMMEDIATELY, IS NEARLY INCURABLE, AND MAY HAVE EXTREMELY VARIOUS FORMS. HE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING EXISTING OR FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON THE PROHIBITION OF SINGLE TYPES OF MDW ARE VERY NECESSARY, AND THEIR SCOPE SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED; HOWEVER, THERE ARE COMBINATIONS OF PRINCIPLES OF ACTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE COVERED BY THOSE SINGLE AGREEMENTS. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL HE SAID, IS A NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO SUCH SINGLE AGREEMENTS.

5. CANADIAN EXPERT (KOOP) SUPPORTED VIEW EXPRESSED BY FRG AND OTHERS THAT 1948 UN DEFINITION OF MDW APPROPRIATE AND SATISFACTORY. HE AGREED WITH US EXPERT THAT INFRA-SOUND WEAPONS, ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPONS AND AIR-FUEL EXPLOSIVES WERE NOT MDW. HE PLEADED WITH CCD NOT TO DILUTE CONCEPT OF MDW BY IDENTIFYING WEAPONS AS MDW WHEN EFFECTS WERE NOT COMPARABLE TO NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, OR CHEMICAL WEAPONS. HE SINGLED OUT LASERS AS TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED AS MDW, AND MOREOVER HAD LEGITIMATE MILITARY FUNCTIONS. HE COMMENDED US EXPERT FOR YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT AND ENDORSED SUGGESTION THAT ONE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT. HE WAS NOT SURE OF FORM SUCH VIGILANCE SHOULD TAKE, BUT EXPRESSED PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM.

6. ITALIAN EXPERT (AMADEI) SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE NEED TO HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENDORSED 1948 UN DEFINITION FOR MDW. HE SAID SOME SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE NEW MDW DID NOT FALL UNDER MDW ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLE OF COMPARABILITY IN UN DEFINITION. IN ANY BAN ON NEW WEAPONS, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT ONE MUST HAVE CLEAR IDEA WHAT IS BANNED. HE SAID BW AND CW ARE EXISTING MDW NOT NEW ONES. REFERENCES TO NEW MDW WERE ONLY HYPOTHESIS

ABOUT FUTURE.

7. US REP (MEYERS) IN BRIEF STATEMENT NOTED THAT NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS HAD REFERRED TO POTENTIAL RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. HE SAID US SUPPORTED 1948 UN DEFINITION OF MDW AND NOTED THAT RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WERE INCLUDED WITHIN SCOPE OF DEFINITION. IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR CCD TO LOOK AT RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AS MDW IN FUTURE CONSISTENT WITH ITS WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES (FULL TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL).

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8. SOVIET EXPERT (SOURIKOV) SAID THAT ANY APPREHENSION SOVIET PROPOSAL MIGHT WEAKEN EXISTING AGREEMENTS OR HINDER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISPELLED BY STATEMENT OF LIKHACHEV (GENEVA 1963). HE THEN BRIEFLY ARGUED THAT BAN ON MDW WOULD NOT HINDER PEACEFUL RESEARCH, SAYING THERE WAS

CLEAR DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. REGARDING THE DIFFICULTY OF DEFINING NEW MDW, HE NOTED THAT THEY HAD PROPOSED CRITERIA IN LAST SUMMER SESSION (CCD/514) WHICH WERE DESIGNED ONLY TO DIRECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM, NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY AGREEMENT. HE NOTED HE HAD SUGGESTED FIVE DIRECTIONS FOR NEW MDW, WITH WHICH US EXPERT HAD NOT AGREED, BUT HAD NOT SUPPORTED CONTENTION BY ARGUMENTS: WITH RESPECT TO INFRA-SOUND AND AIR/FUEL WEAPONS, HE SAID THAT THERE COULD KILL PEOPLE IN SHELTERS, WHICH WAS A CAPABILITY ALSO POSSESSED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE CONTENDED THAT EFFECT OF AIR-FUEL EXPLOSIVES COULD BE COMPARABLE TO CW. THERE WAS NO DOUBT THESE AREAS WERE NEW AND VERY DANGEROUS. THEIR CHARACTERISTICS WERE SUFFICIENT TO BE IN AGREEMENT BANNING NEW MDW. WITH RESPECT TO USE OF TRANSURANIC OR TRANSPLUTONIC ELEMENTS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HE CLAIMED IT WAS HIGHLY ERRONEOUS TO CLAIM THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY OTHER AGREEMENTS. ONE SHOULD HANDLE THEM NOW IN BAN ON NEW MDW BEFORE THEY EXIST. WITH RESPECT TO THE AIR SHUTTLE, HE AGREED THAT OUTER-SPACE TREATY WOULD BAN MDW IF SHUTTLE PLACED NDW IN ORBIT. HOWEVER, POTENTIAL OF SHUTTLE IN AERODYNAMIC FLIGHT TO DELIVER WEAPONS AGAINST TARGET ON EARTH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CCD IN CONTEXT OF NEW MDW, NOT IN OTHER FORUMS.

9. THE NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) SAID THAT A CTB WOULD PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WITH RESPECT TO RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, HE NOTED THAT IN 1970 NETHERLANDS DEL HAD PRESENTED WORKING DOCUMENT, ADOPTED BY CCD, WHICH DISCUSSED RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND CONCLUDED THEY WERE NOT PRACTICAL.

10. INDIAN REP (JAIN) NOTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD VOTED AGAINST 1948 UN DEFINITION OF MDW AND ASKED HOW THE SOVIETS STOOD ON DEFINITION NOW. NEXT, HE NOTED THAT SOVIET AND US EXPERTS CONTINUED TO DIFFER IN VIEW ON FIVE AREAS OF NEW MDW SUGGESTED BY SOVIET EXPERT. THIS, HE SAID, SHOWED DISCUSSION SHOULD CONTINUE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. HE THEN SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS POSED BY MDW WERE COMPLEX, BUT SIMPLE SOLUTIONS WERE REQUIRED. HE ENTERED INTO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT, RANGING OVER THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR A CW AGREEMENT, WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY CLARIFICATION.

11. THE SOVIET REP (LIKHACHEV) THEN GAVE CONCLUDING STATE-
MENT FOR THIS SESSION OF INFORMAL MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT
AN AGREEMENT ON NEW MDW WOULD NOT WEAKEN EXISTING AGREEMENTS
OR THOSE IN STAGES OF ELABORATION. HE SAID VIRTUALLY ALL
EXPERTS HAD WELCOMED SOVIET INITIATIVE AND THERE WAS SOME
MEASURE OF AGREEMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE PROVISIONS OF AN
AGREEMENT. HE THANKED THOSE WHO HAD EXPRESSED CONSTRUCTIVE
IDEAS WHICH WOULD BE STUDIED. DOUBTS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ALSO,
BUT WERE NOT SUPPORTED BY ARGUMENTS. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS
SUBJECT IN MORE DETAIL LATER.SORENSEN

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